



TREASURE VALLEY

ADA, ADAMS, BOISE, CANYON, ELMORE, GEM, OWYHEE, PAYETTE, VALLEY, & WASHINGTON COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

The April 2002 seasonally adjusted unemployment rate for the Boise City Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes Ada and Canyon Counties, was 4.6 percent, as shown in Treasure Valley Table 1. This rate was down four-tenths of a percentage point from March's rate of 5.0 percent, and up eight-tenths of a percentage point from the April 2001 rate of 3.8 percent. The number of individuals employed decreased from March to April by 700 individuals, while a decrease of 1,000 occurred in the number of unemployed individuals, from 12,600 in March to 11,600 in April. The decrease in the number employed and the decrease in the number unemployed created a net decrease in the *Civilian Labor Force* of 1,700 individuals from March to April 2002; year-over-year, there was a net increase of 2,600 individuals in the *Civilian Labor Force*. Treasure Valley Table 2 shows the April 2002 seasonally adjusted labor force figures for all counties in Southwest Idaho, compared to statewide figures.

**Treasure Valley Table 2: April 2002
Seasonally Adjusted Labor Force Figures for
Southwest Idaho Counties**

	Civilian Labor Force	Number Unem- ployed	Percent Unem- ployed	Number Employed
Ada	181,576	7,616	4.2	173,960
Adams	1,574	198	12.6	1,375
Boise	2,764	114	4.1	2,649
Canyon	69,433	4,008	5.8	65,425
Elmore	9,911	653	6.6	9,258
Gem	6,757	543	8.0	6,214
Owyhee	4,256	204	4.8	4,052
Payette	10,136	763	7.5	9,373
Valley	4,112	329	8.0	3,784
Washington	4,593	380	8.3	4,213
Statewide	689,748	36,396	5.3	653,352

About 1,700 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* were added to the Boise City MSA between March and April 2002. There was an increase of 300 *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* from April 2001. But it was April 2001 when the Boise MSA's economy began to slow significantly from the boom times of the

**Treasure Valley Table 1: Boise MSA Labor Force & Employment
Ada and Canyon counties**

	April 2002*	March 2002	April 2001	% Change Last Month	% Change Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	251,000	252,700	248,400	-0.7	1.0
Unemployment	11,600	12,600	9,500	-7.9	22.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	5.0	3.8		
Total Employment	239,400	240,100	238,900	-0.3	0.2
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	249,700	251,800	246,900	-0.8	1.1
Unemployment	11,400	13,100	9,200	-13.0	23.9
% of Labor Force Unemployed	4.6	5.2	3.7		
Total Employment	238,300	238,700	237,700	-0.2	0.3
JOBS BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs**	230,600	228,900	230,300	0.7	0.1
GOODS-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Construction & Mining	16,200	15,700	16,500	3.2	-1.8
Manufacturing	34,400	34,300	37,300	0.3	-7.8
Durable Goods	26,100	26,100	28,800	0.0	-9.4
Lumber & Wood Products	3,100	3,100	3,000	0.0	3.3
Wood Buildings & Mobile Homes	800	800	800	0.0	0.0
Other Lumber & Wood Products	2,300	2,300	2,200	0.0	4.5
Fabricated Metal Products	1,100	1,100	1,200	0.0	-8.3
Ind & Com Mach & Computer Equip	7,200	7,300	8,300	-1.4	-13.3
Electronic & Other Elect Equip. & Comp	11,200	11,200	12,700	0.0	-11.8
Transportation Equipment	1,700	1,700	1,700	0.0	0.0
Other Durable Goods	1,800	1,700	1,900	5.9	-5.3
Nondurable Goods	8,300	8,200	8,500	1.2	-2.4
Food & Kindred Products	5,600	5,500	5,700	1.8	-1.8
Canned Cured & Frozen Foods	1,700	1,700	1,800	0.0	-5.6
Printing, Pub & Allied Products	1,900	1,900	1,900	0.0	0.0
Other Nondurable Goods	800	800	900	0.0	-11.1
SERVICE-PRODUCING INDUSTRIES					
Trans, Comm, & Public Util	12,100	12,200	12,400	-0.8	-2.4
Transportation	6,800	6,900	6,900	-1.4	-1.4
Comm & Elec, Gas & Sanitary Ser	5,300	5,300	5,500	0.0	-3.6
Trade	56,200	55,600	56,400	1.1	-0.4
Wholesale Trade	12,800	12,700	12,900	0.8	-0.8
Durable Goods	7,900	7,800	7,900	1.3	0.0
Nondurable Goods	4,900	4,900	5,000	0.0	-2.0
Retail Trade	43,400	42,900	43,500	1.2	-0.2
General Merchandise Stores	5,500	5,400	5,500	1.9	0.0
Foods Stores	7,300	7,400	7,700	-1.4	-5.2
Eating & Drinking Places	15,600	15,300	15,300	2.0	2.0
Other Retail Trade	15,000	14,800	15,000	1.4	0.0
Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate Services	11,800	11,700	11,400	0.9	3.5
Business Services	63,200	62,500	61,300	1.1	3.1
Health Services	13,800	13,900	14,500	-0.7	-4.8
Hospitals	19,300	19,200	17,800	0.5	8.4
Eng, Acct., Res, Mngmt., & Related	9,300	9,200	8,100	1.1	14.8
Other Services	5,400	5,400	5,100	0.0	5.9
Government	24,700	24,000	23,900	2.9	3.3
Federal Government	36,700	36,900	35,000	-0.5	4.9
State Government	5,200	5,200	5,100	0.0	2.0
Education	13,700	13,900	13,200	-1.4	3.8
Administration	4,700	4,700	4,400	0.0	6.8
Local Government	9,000	9,200	8,800	-2.2	2.3
Education	17,800	17,800	16,700	0.0	6.6
Administration	11,800	11,800	11,000	0.0	7.3
	6,000	6,000	5,700	0.0	5.3

* Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

1990s. A month-over-month change does not make a trend, however, the addition of 1,700 jobs is a welcome occurrence. In *Goods-Producing Industries*, there was a gain of 600 jobs month-over-month with the only job loss occurring in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment* (100). Job gains occurred in *Mining & Construction* (500), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), and *Food Processing Manufacturing* (100). The year-over-year data is quite different as *Goods-Producing Industries* lost 3,200 jobs. Job losses occurred in: *Mining & Construction* (300), *Fabricated Metal Products Manufacturing* (100), *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* (1,100), *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment & Components Manufacturing* (1,500), *Other Durable Goods Manufacturing* (100), *Food & Kindred Products Manufacturing* (100) and *Other Nondurable Goods Manufacturing* (100). *Other Lumber & Wood Products Manufacturing* (100) was the only *Goods-Producing Industry* to create new jobs over the year. The large decrease in the number of jobs in *Industrial & Commercial Machinery & Computer Equipment Manufacturing* and *Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment and Components Manufacturing* is consistent with the number of layoffs that have occurred in those industries since January 2001.

Service-Producing Industries gained 1,100 jobs between March and April 2002. Job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Food Stores* (100), *Business Services* (100), and *State Government Administration* (200) were outpaced by job increases in *Durable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *General Merchandise Stores* (100), *Eating & Drinking Places* (300), *Other Retail Trade* (200), *Finance, Insurance, & Real Estate* (100), *Health Services*, primarily *Hospitals* (100), and *Other Services* (700) to create the net increase in the number of *Service-Producing Industry* jobs gained over the month. Year-over-year, there was an increase of 3,500 jobs in *Service-Producing Industries*, with job gains in *Eating & Drinking Places* (300), *Finance, Insurance & Real Estate* (400), *Health Services* (1,500), primarily *Hospitals* (1,200), *Engineering, Accounting, Research, Management, & Related* (300), *Other Services* (800), *Federal Government* (100), *State Government Education* (300), *State Government Administration* (200), *Local Government Education* (800), and *Local Government Administration* (300) outpacing job losses in *Transportation* (100), *Communications & Electricity, Gas & Sanitary Services* (200), *Nondurable Goods Wholesale Trade* (100), *Food Stores* (400), and *Business Services* (700).

SPECIAL TOPICS

Per Capita Income

The Bureau of Economic Analysis released Personal Per Capita Income (PPCI) figures in May. All counties in Southwest Idaho showed an increase in PPCI over the year. FYI Table 2 on page 22 shows the changes in both Personal Income and Personal Per Capita Income for all counties throughout the state. Blaine County is ranked number one, followed by Ada and Valley Counties. In terms of actual growth, from 1999 to 2000, the rankings for largest percent growth in the region were as follows:

Ada (3); Adams (5); Valley (7); Gem (9); Payette (18); Elmore (21); Boise (30); Canyon (31); Owyhee (41); and Washington (42). The rankings for dollar growth during the same time period were as follows: Ada (1) with a PPCI increase of \$2,677; Valley (3) with a PPCI increase of \$1,999; Adams (7) with a PPCI increase of \$1,605; Gem (12) with a PPCI increase of \$1,293; Payette (21) with a PPCI increase of \$936; Elmore (23) with a PPCI increase of \$918; Boise (29) with a PPCI increase of \$664; Canyon (22) with a PPCI increase of \$572; Owyhee (41) with a PPCI increase of \$186; and Washington (42) with a PPCI increase of \$171. Further information regarding the Personal Per Capita Income for these counties as well as all Idaho counties, the State of Idaho, and the Nation is available in the FYI section on page 21.

WestRock

WestRock, a \$1.2 billion four-season resort on Lake Cascade near Donnelly, reached final approval from the State of Idaho Land Board in mid-May. WestRock is envisioned to be a full-service resort featuring a large ski hill and an 18-hole golf course. Resort activities will be supplemented with hiking, biking, and snowshoeing. The resort's development is expected to extend over the next 18 years. Valley County officials recently approved the conditional use permit for WestRock to begin construction.

The WestRock resort will be the first major ski resort built in North America in 20 years. WestRock officials have scheduled construction on the site along Lake Cascade starting August 1. The initial phase will involve building roads and installing basic utilities. The next phase, scheduled to begin in summer 2004, will include a golf course, a mountaintop restaurant with a retail outlet, a fire station, ski lifts, about 300 village dwelling units, and 20,000-square feet of additional commercial space. The projected grand opening for WestRock is the summer of 2005.

AREA DEVELOPMENTS

Boise City MSA

- The City of Boise announced that it will pay \$110,000 for 41.9 acres of the northeastern edge of city-owned property in Hulls Gulch Reserve. This purchase will permanently preserve trail access, waterside habitat, and unobstructed views from town. This was the first purchase made after the \$10 million levy was passed in May 2001 for the purpose of preserving the Boise foothills. The City purchased the property from ORIDA Investment Corp., a corporate affiliate of United Water of Idaho.
- Recent new business openings in Ada County include: Gold's Gym at 1455 South Country Terrace Place in Meridian (next to Meridian Ford); the Glass Doctor, which recently moved to 44 South Meridian Road; Pacific Salon Systems at 10 North Liberty Center off Franklin Road in Boise; and Sara's Barkery in Kuna.

- Lithia Ford announced plans to move into the unfinished building and surrounding acreage at the southeast corner of Fairview and Maple Grove in Boise. Construction is scheduled to begin within the next six months and then be completed within another eight to twelve months. The half-completed building, which was intended to be Smiths Food and Drug Center, will be finished and used as a parts warehouse and service center. The dealership will build a two-story showroom, office building, and a full service lube shop. The project is expected to cost more than \$4 million.
- BestBuy announced plans to open a store at the former Home Base location at 8363 West Franklin Road in Boise. This will be BestBuy's first store in the Treasure Valley. BestBuy is the nation's largest specialty electronics retailer. Its move into Idaho is part of a wave of expansion opportunities. The Boise store is expected to open in June and will employ 125 to 150 people.
- A mixed use, four-story, 51,000-square-foot building is approved for the east side of Thirteenth Street between Myrtle Street and Grand Avenue in Boise. The building will contain 14 units of small office and retail space on the ground floor, and 42 residential apartments and condos on the other three floors. The project is expected to begin this summer, and should be completed in four or five months.
- In late May, Extended Systems signed an agreement to purchase ViaFone in a deal valued at \$11.4 million. The deal needs to be approved by shareholders of both companies and receive regulatory approval before becoming official. The deal will add real-time wireless e-mail to Extended System's portfolio of products.
- Recent new business openings in Canyon County include Clean Flicks at 2108 Caldwell Boulevard #2 in Nampa; Farm & City Supply at 5520 East Franklin near the Idaho Center in Nampa; and Centennial Car Wash and Perks at 121 East Simplot Boulevard in Caldwell.
- Other recent Canyon County business announcements include the ground-breaking for Farmers & Merchants State Bank's newest branch to be located at Twelfth and Blaine Streets in Caldwell — a location that is much larger than the current location. In addition, Walgreen's signed a lease to locate a new drugstore in Caldwell on the block bounded by Cleveland, Dearborn, Tenth, and Eleventh Streets. It is scheduled to open in February 2003.
- The owner of the Post Office building in Notus recently donated the use of a 5,000-square-foot space in the building to the city for use as a library, community center, and visitor's center. Donations of time and materials are still needed to continue the project. This will be the first visitor's center for the city of Notus.

- The Middleton School District broke ground on Purple Sage Elementary School in mid-May. The new school will be located on El Paso Road between Purple Sage Golf Course and Galloway Road. The school is being funded by a \$10.25 million bond levy that was passed in November, and is expected to open in 2003. When the new school opens, all elementary schools in the district will house kindergarten through fifth grade students.

Adams County

- Beginning June 1, Weiser Memorial Hospital and Weiser's Two Rivers Medical Clinic will provide health care in Council since the Council Rural Health District signed a temporary 120-day contract with the medical entities. If the arrangement works out, a new contract will be signed in November for a longer period of time.
- Lafferty and Evergreen Campgrounds, located in the Council Ranger District, will remain closed until renovation and repair work is completed. The Idaho Department of Parks and Recreation awarded a grant to fund the work on Lafferty Campground, which will include a new restroom, picnic tables, fire rings, table pads, and campground perimeter fencing. The work on Lafferty is expected to last through this camping season. Evergreen Campground is closed due to the unsafe bridge that provides the only access to the campground. It will remain closed until funding becomes available to replace or repair the bridge.

Elmore County

- The groundbreaking ceremony for the new Mountain Home city police department, located on East Eighth North Street, took place May 28. Once construction starts on the building, it will be completed in nine to twelve months. Completion of the new facility will allow the department to consolidate records and officers into one building.

Gem County

- Freezing temperatures in the valley in mid-May damaged many crops in area orchards. Cherry, apricot, and peach crops were damaged and could be diminished by as much as 60 percent in areas, while it is too early to tell whether apple and other fruits were damaged.
- The Emmett Planning and Zoning Commission unanimously approved a special use permit for a youth rehabilitation center at 411 West Main Street. The facility would be similar to Liberty Canyon Boys' Ranch in Sweet. Once open, the center would meet the needs of 48 young men and employ 40 people.

Payette County

- New businesses opening in Payette County in recent months include Coldwell Banker Classic Properties, Body Shop Fitness, and Artic Circle, all located in the Payette Business Plaza on North Sixteenth Street.

- The annual Payette Apple Blossom Festival took place May 9-19. Highlights of this year's festival included the Royal West Carnival, the annual parade, various breakfasts and dinners, pie eating contests, food vendors, lawn mower dragster races, karaoke, various concerts performed by local bands, a pig scramble, mud volleyball, skateboard competitions, and the Apple Blossom Rodeo.

Valley County

- Boise (formerly Boise Cascade) announced in late May that the Cascade sawmill would be dismantled. The equipment is being moved to other Boise operations or sold and the buildings will be removed. Company officials stated that efforts were made to sell the mill and property, but there were no offers; the company has spent \$360,000 to keep it secure and in good operating condition for prospective buyers. The dismantling started in June and will take up to two months to complete. No information was available on what will happen to the site, which is still owned by Boise.
- Ashley Inn, a new 65-room hotel in Cascade, had a groundbreaking ceremony in May. The project was made possible by a \$406,000 grant to the city of Cascade from the Idaho Department of Commerce that will pay for new sewer and water lines to the site. The new 40,000-square-foot hotel will include a conference and reception center, meeting rooms, and an indoor swimming pool and spa. The hotel is expected to employ 30 people and will open by Christmas 2002.
- The Bird Nest recently opened in Donnelly. The store sells everything needed to watch and feed birds, including birdhouses, bird feeders, birdseed, and other items for attracting wild birds. The store will be open year round and will sell winter items such as heated bird baths and food to attract birds in colder months. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- Ground was broken in early May on the \$5.6 million McCall Ice Rink and Event Center, located on East Lake Street between First and Second Streets in McCall. A year-round refrigerated ice rink built to NHL specifications will be the centerpiece of the complex. The center also will include bleachers seating 600, two locker rooms, a concession area, and an eating plaza that will hold an additional 40 people. A 50-car two-level parking garage will be built adjacent to the rink to help ease parking along the already busy street. The complex is expected to open Memorial Day 2003.
- Washington Federal Savings started construction of a new office building near the intersection of Park and First streets in McCall. Construction will continue all summer and the business will move in October. The new office will be about 2,100-square feet with a

drive-through window. The move will allow the bank to incorporate more high-tech equipment into its McCall office, as well as being more desirable, geographically.

- The Fabric Hutch recently opened next to Paul's Market in downtown McCall. The Fabric Hutch offers a variety of fabric and craft needs. Store hours are 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday.
- The vacant buildings across from Whitetail Lodge on Idaho 55 in McCall were torn down in mid-May. The buildings previously housed Lake Street Café and Apartments, McCall Real Estate, and Louigi's Restaurant. The buildings were torn down in an effort to beautify the site prior to the planned June opening of Whitetail Lodge (formerly Shore Lodge) and its nearby 18-hole golf course. The buildings that previously housed Home Town Sports and the Riverside Motel will remain.
- In late April, Ridley's, an Idaho grocery chain, purchased Shaver's in McCall. Ridley's took over the 36,000-square-foot Shaver's location and closed its 18,000-square-foot dry goods store at the same time. Ten Ridley's employees were moved to the new store. The sporting goods and clothing departments were moved to the new Ridley's, making it the only Ridley's in the chain that sells clothing.

Washington County

- The National Oldtime Fiddlers' Contest and Festival is celebrating its fiftieth anniversary this year. The City of Weiser is gearing up for the Festival, which begins on June 22. More than 350 fiddlers are expected in addition to the more than 1,100 volunteers that will monitor the festival, which features cow pie bingo, karaoke, high-tech virtual fiddling, carnival, booths, entertainment, and Bikers Rodeo.
- Wolverine Stadium in Weiser's Memorial Park started construction in late May. The school district contributed \$40,000 from its accumulated fund of state lottery proceeds and the City of Weiser contributed \$40,000, borrowed from its cemetery fund, to build the football stadium. A new press box will be placed on top of the fifteenth row of the new bleachers, donated by the Weiser Lions Club. Construction of the bleachers started after the 300-foot base was excavated and filled with gravel. The bleachers should be completed in mid-June.

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